

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 PA-01 SIL-01 LAB-04
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8299

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08405

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, PINT, PEPR, XX, CU, GW

SUBJECT: FRG ATTENDANCE AT THE XI WORLD FESTIVAL FOR
YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN HAVANA, JULY 28 -
AUGUST 5, 1978

REFS: A) STATE 84164; B) 77 BONN 5569; C) STATE
A-2234 OF MAY 24, 1977

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG YOUTH AND STUDENT GROUPS, COMMUNIST
AND NON-COMMUNIST ALIKE, ARE INTENSIVELY PREPARING FOR
THE HAVANA FESTIVAL. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE FRG
WILL FIELD A LARGE (340) AND BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE
DELEGATION, DESPITE A FEW DEFECTIONS AND CONTINUED
DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST
COALITIONS. FRG COMMUNISTS SEE THE HAVANA FESTIVAL AS
AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GOOD PROPAGANDA; FRG NON-
COMMUNIST GROUPS PLAN TO ATTEND IN ORDER TO COUNTER
THAT PROPAGANDA. THE FESTIVAL HAS NOT YET
ACQUIRED MAJOR POLITICAL OVERTONES IN THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC, BUT THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION RECENTLY FILED
A PARLIAMENTARY QUERY WHICH WILL REQUIRE THE SCHMIDT
GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND. END SUMMARY.

1. THE XI WORLD FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH AND STUDENTS,
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SCHEDULED FOR HAVANA FROM JULY 28 TO AUGUST 5, IS NOT
A MAJOR ITEM OF PUBLIC AND POLITICAL DISCOURSE IN THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. TRADITIONALLY, FRG YOUTH
GROUPS ARE HIGHLY ORGANIZED AND ACTIVE CONFERENCE-
GOERS. SINCE MID-1976, THEY HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR
THE HAVANA FESTIVAL THROUGH AN AD HOC INITIATIVE
COMMITTEE (INITIATIVAUSSCHUSS), WHICH CONSISTS OF FOUR

REPRESENTATIVES FROM A WORKING GROUP FESTIVAL (I.E., LOCAL COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS) AND FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM A COORDINATING GROUP (I.E., LOCAL NON-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS). THE INITIATIVAUSSCHUSS WORKS ON THE CONSENSUS PRINCIPLE. WE RECALL THAT A SIMILAR BODY WAS USED TO PREPARE FOR THE X FESTIVAL IN EAST BERLIN IN 1973.

2. THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE HAS ALLOTTED THE FRG A 340-MAN DELEGATION TO THE HAVANA FESTIVAL. THE INITIATIV-AUSSCHUSS HAS NOT YET DISTRIBUTED THESE SEATS, BUT THE EVENTUAL ALLOTMENT WILL PROBABLY FAVOR THE COORDINATING GROUP OVER THE WORKING GROUP FESTIVAL.

3. FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, BOTH SIDES ARE WORKING HARD TO PREPARE FOR HAVANA. ON THE ONE HAND, THE WORKING GROUP FESTIVAL HAS AN OBVIOUS IDEOLOGICAL AXE TO GRIND. ON THE OTHER, THE COORDINATING GROUP STRONGLY BELIEVES (REFS B AND C) THAT NON-COMMUNIST FRG YOUTH MUST SEND A BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION TO HAVANA, SO AS NOT TO ABDICATE THE FIELD TO THE WORKING GROUP FESTIVAL CROWD.

4. THE COORDINATING GROUP EMBRACES A WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS: E.G., LABOR FEDERATION YOUTH, SPORT YOUTH, CONFIDENTIAL

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YOUNG SOCIALISTS, AND YOUNG DEMOCRATS. UNTIL RECENTLY, IT ALSO INCLUDED THE JUNGE UNION (JU) AND THE RING OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS (RCDS), BOTH OF WHICH STAND CLOSE TO THE MODERATE/CONSERVATIVE CDU/CSU PARTIES. HOWEVER, THE JU/RCDS WITHDREW IN MARCH FROM THE COORDINATING GROUP AND ANNOUNCED THEY WILL NOT GO TO HAVANA, ARGUING THAT THE FESTIVAL IS NO MORE THAN A COMMUNIST SHOW WHICH GIVES THE OTHER SIDE NO CHANCE TO PRESENT ITS POINT OF VIEW. THE JU/RCDS BLAST TRIGGERED SOME RECRIMINATION FROM SPOKESMEN OF THE WORKING GROUP FESTIVAL.

5. IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE INITIATIVAUSSCHUSS WILL ISSUE A JOINT APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF THE FESTIVAL. THE COORDINATING GROUP QUESTIONS THE NEED FOR SUCH A DOCUMENT. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, AN APPEAL IS NOT REALLY NECESSARY, BECAUSE THE FRG WILL SEND AN AMPLE, ROUGHLY REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION IN ANY CASE.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TOTAL COSTS FOR FIELDING THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08405

FRG DELEGATION IN HAVANA WILL LIE AROUND DM 800,000
(ABOUT \$ 400,000). YOUTH GROUPS WHO RECEIVE GOVERNMENT
AID UNDER THE FEDERAL YOUTH PROGRAM MAY USE THESE FUNDS
FOR THEIR DELEGATES, BUT BONN REPORTEDLY DOES NOT PLAN
TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN
THE FESTIVAL.

7. LAST MONTH, THE OPPOSITION CDU/CSU FILED A
PARLIAMENTARY QUERY ASKING THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT (A)
HOW IT VIEWS THE HAVANA FESTIVAL, (B) WHETHER IT PLANS
PUBLICLY TO EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF THIS GATHERING, AND
(C) HOW MUCH FEDERAL MONEY IS INVOLVED. TO DATE, THE
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REPLIED.

8. THE EMBASSY WILL USE SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO
MAKE THE POINT IN PARA 3 OF REF A. HOWEVER, MOST
MEMBERS OF THE COORDINATING GROUP DO NOT CHALLENGE
THIS POINT. INSTEAD, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVANA IN AN
EFFORT TO MAKE AND BROADEN CONTACTS WITH COLLEAGUES
FROM THIRD WORLD AND COMMUNIST STATES, IN THE HOPE OF
COUNTERING -- IF ONLY TO A LIMITED DEGREE -- MASSIVE
PROPAGANDA EFFORTS BY COMMUNIST GROUPS IN THE FRG AND
ELSEWHERE.

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